

Thurston Report July 2001

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Son of Man's Mission

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Travel, Travel and more Travel



The international group attending the Christianity Today Conference.

Greetings in the love of Jesus. It has been a number of months since we have written, but during that time both Lina and I have been super busy. In March, Lina went to the United States to attend an international board meeting for the women's organization in which she participates. One of the themes was strategies and advances for women's evangelistic work around the world. They also talked about the last minute details for the great world wide women's congress that will be celebrated in Houston, Texas in September. The congress has called women together for the first time from 13 denominations and Christian groups. She also had a chance to visit some churches and friends.



Paul speaking at Christianity Today conference

When Lina arrived back in Santiago, a few days later, Paul and I left for the USA to attend a conference sponsored by *Christianity Today* in Chicago. They had invited us along with the representatives from the largest international Christian websites in the world. They came from, Japan, China, Taiwan, Brazil, Holland, England and Chile. We agreed at the conference that we would do it again next year, but this time in Holland. We want to thank those from the Northlake Community Church who gave a little extra for us to go to the United States and attend the conference. Another blessing as the result of the conference was that the vice president of *Christianity Today* was very impressed with what we are doing and they gave us a small grant. They are also trying to help us with contacts with Christian foundations as presently all the money to fund it comes out of our pockets. (Steve's & mine)

On our way back to Santiago, we stopped in Miami where we teamed up with my other son Steve, to participate in Expolit. This is an annual conference of about 3,500 participating from Spanish book dealers and publishing houses. It is the largest Spanish conference of the year. They asked us to put the event over the Internet so all Latin America could see what was happening. The bad news was when I returned to Chile I found that my computer had picked up two viruses and was almost in operative. Apart from that there were more than a thousand emails waiting for me to read and respond.



Mary Jane has completed another stage of her life as she graduated from high school on July 5. One of the neat things was that her graduation was on our wedding anniversary as we completed 32 years of marriage. Now Mary Jane is planning on attending college and it looks like it will be in Chile. She wants to study Business administration, Tourism and Marketing.

I have said, jokingly that I have one of the largest electronic churches in the world. Our web site has thousands coming in a month and some months we have had more than 700,000. This is not hits or page views, but individual people. They come in from all over the world. Through the messages, videos, Bible studies people are being built up in the faith. Not only built up, but people are coming to know the Lord. Last week talking to a person in Mexico over our chat, I was able to lead him to the Lord. By chat you are able to communicate directly with a person in real time. Another thing we started last week is an international prayer meeting on our chat. Christian people join us in one of our chat rooms where we meet to pray. At our first meeting people from five countries joined together to pray. We prayed for 1 ½ hours and it was exciting. Our site can be found at www.integridad.com. Of course it is in Spanish. We plan to put on live Bible studies soon.

The end of September until January 1, we plan to go on a mini furlough. One of our purposes is to enlarge our base of those investing in our ministries and to have more churches and individuals praying for us. Our mission is small and they do not have personnel to do this, so it falls on our shoulders. Our medical insurance has greatly gone up in the last two years as well as the inflation in Chile. Insurance on our car and fire insurance on the studio has also greatly increased. The telephone, Internet, studio light are heavy burdens on our personal finances. We are praying the Lord will increase our support by at least a \$1000 per month which includes lacking personal support and work money. A second purpose and one of the most important is to visit my family and our friends.

The Lord is their strength, and he is the saving strength of his anointed. Psalm 28:8 love, Jim and Lina